



Sites Homestead & Heritage Garden

Seneca Rocks, West Virginia

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This brochure was made possible by a grant from the Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association.

Sites Homestead & Heritage Garden

The Sites Homestead and Heritage Garden are located at the foot of Seneca Rocks adjacent to the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center. Visitors to the historic house and garden can step back to a time when planting and harvesting dictated the pace of life.

Spruce Knob – Seneca Rocks
National Recreation Area

Monongahela National Forest
U.S. Forest Service



The Sites Homestead



The Sites Homestead is typical of houses built by German settlers in the North Fork Valley. It began as a single room log cabin built by Jacob Sites in 1839. The house grew as the family prospered. Sometime in the 1860's or 70's the house was expanded to a two-story frame building. Jacob's original log cabin remains a part of the house to day.



Four generations of the Sites family called the house their home, occupying it for more than one hundred years. Layers of history are recorded on the walls. Remnants of built-in stuctures and old wallpaper allow visitors to imagine how the house may have appeared when it was inhabited.



The house was abandoned around 1950 and was later used to store hay. The Forest Service purchased the property in 1968. By the early 1980s vandals and time had taken their toll on the homestead. Plans were made to tear the house down, but family members and the local community rallied around a proposal to save it. As a result, the house was rehabilitated and opened to the public in 1991.

The Heritage Gardens



The heritage vegetable garden is planted with heirloom crops typical of those found here in the late 1800s. Seeds are gathered from various sources, many of them donated to the project by individuals who still grow old-time vegetables that have been in their families for generations.



Visitors can view varieties of flowers, herbs and shrubs that were commonly grown in the latter 19th century. In the pioneer tradition, many of these plants were acquired from family or friends, while others were transplanted from the wild or from nearby homesteads.

Pioneer events are occasionally scheduled to offer visitors a chance to experience the past through observation and hands-on activities. Quilting, soap making, basketry, spinning, blacksmithing and open-fire cooking are just some of the events guests might enjoy. Schedules may be obtained by contacting the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center.